

HISTORY
OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTION

FOR THE
Education of the Deaf and the Blind.

PREPARED BY
N. F. WALKER,
FEBRUARY, 1893.

CEDAR SPRING, S. C.

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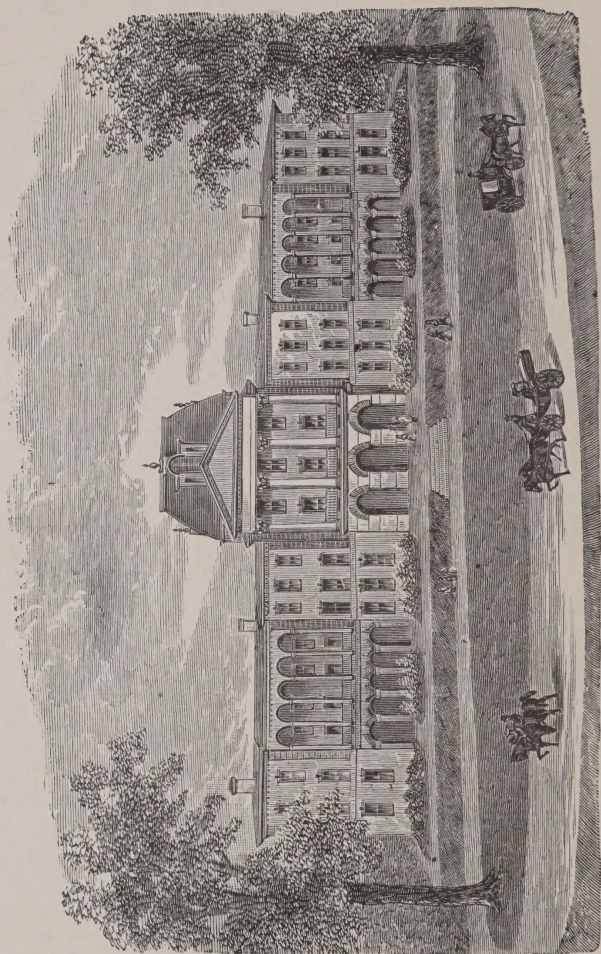
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THE SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.

SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTION

FOR THE

Education of the Deaf and the Blind.

This Institution was established, at its present location, Cedar Spring, Spartanburg county, S. C., by Rev. Newton Pinckney Walker, in 1849. On the 22d of January of that year Mr. Walker admitted a class of five deaf children into his school for speaking and hearing children. By the end of the year three additional pupils had joined this class and Mr. Walker decided to devote his entire time to the education of the deaf. He had spent a few months during the year 1848 at the Cave Spring (Georgia) School for the Deaf, preparing himself for this special work. Dr. J. H. Johnson, the present Principal of the Alabama Institution for the Deaf, informed the writer recently that he was teaching at the Cave Spring School in 1848 and gave Mr. Walker his first lesson in the use of the Manual alphabet.

The names of the five pupils first admitted are as follows :

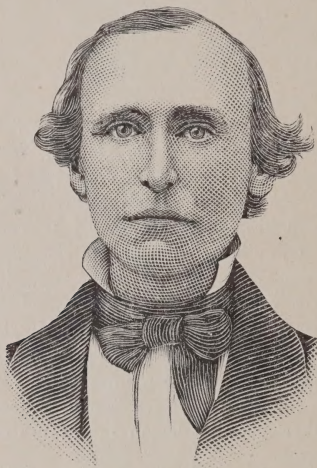
| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| John M. Hughston, | E. Jane Hughston, |
| E. Melton Hughston, | Irene A. Cooper, |
| Harvey W. Bennett. | |

All of the above were residents of Spartanburg county, in which the Institution is located.

The founder of the school was born in said county on the 29th of November, 1816.

In the first printed report of the Institution (1854) Mr. Walker says: " Little did I think, a few years ago, that I would ever be as I now find myself—surrounded by multiplied cares of

so peculiar a character; children whose condition in life gives point to the sacredness of the trust; when indeed, at first, I aspired to nothing higher in this sphere of action than the amelioration of the intellectual condition of a few deaf-mute relatives of my wife." In the same report he says: "From these statements it would appear that, as the Institution is now being conducted, it might continue to dispense its blessings, though in an humble manner, without disturbance. And were I to consult nothing except my own interest in a pecuniary point of view, or self-composure in the uninterrupted possession of this property—a something which 'nature calls its own,' I might



REV. NEWTON PINCKNEY WALKER.

never ask for any change, feeling that I am sufficiently compensated to raise my family as my neighbors are doing. * * But over all this, I submit for your consideration, and of citizens of the State generally, that private property, being subject to forego material changes, is always unsafe for public purposes. And though content in my humble sphere, trying to manage my business as a unit, in an individual, independent manner, yet I am willing to acquiesce in any change in the matter which might be dictated by candid deliberation. My great desire is that the Institution, in some form, be perpetu-

ated in all time, in such a manner as to reflect honor according to that form, whether individual or State protection be thrown around it."

In April, 1855, a department for the Blind was added, with Professor James S. Henderson, a graduate of the Tennessee School for the Blind, as principal teacher.

In 1857 the school was changed from an individual enterprise to a State institution, and the Legislature made a liberal appropriation for the erection of suitable buildings.

The death of the Principal, Rev. N. P. Walker, occurred November 13, 1861. In the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners to the Legislature, after the death of the Principal, they say: "In the last report of our predecessors, your body was also advised of the death of the Principal, N. P. Walker, which occurred previous to the report, but after the expiration of the fiscal year. We have not supplied his place by the appointment of another. This we could not have done if we had deemed it advisable, because of the appropriation for the support of the Institution being less than it had been for the two preceding years. We are satisfied, however, that no change in the management or government of the Institution is desirable.

* * The Professors and their Assistants are connected by blood or marriage; the utmost harmony prevails, and each appears desirous of advancing the interest of the Institution; and the introduction of a stranger as Superintendent and governor would probably cause dissatisfaction and destroy that harmony which is necessary to success. The only change made in the employees is the appointment of a Steward, who is the son of the late Superintendent. We therefore, at present, propose no further change, and have directed the Institution to be conducted in the same manner as the last year." The school was carried on in this way, without the appointment of a Superintendent, from November, 1861, to April, 1865, at which time, on account of the unsettled condition of the country and of the finances of the State—the Civil War having just ended—it became necessary to close its doors and to send the pupils to their homes.

No statement of the origin of the school, with its successes and its difficulties, would be complete without mentioning that in all things the founder had a faithful co-worker in his wife, Mrs. Martha L. Walker, who, by her personal labor and constant words of cheer and encouragement made success possible.

She still lives (February, 1893,) and delights in the continued success and growth of the school.

In October, 1866, J. S. Henderson and N. F. Walker were appointed Associate Principals, and the Institution was reopened; but after one session was again closed on account of the continued unsettled condition of the State's finances.

In September, 1869, the school was again reopened, with J. M. Hughston, a graduate of the Institution, as Superintendent. In 1872 Mr. Hughston resigned and the present Superintendent, N. F. Walker, was appointed. During the school-year of 1872-'73, by the direction of the Board of Commissioners, a building, on a lot adjoining the Institution, was fitted up for the opening of a department for colored pupils. On the 17th of September, 1873, the following instructions from the Board of Commissioners were placed in the hands of Superintendent Walker:

"First. Colored pupils must not only be admitted into the Institution on application, but an earnest and faithful effort must be made to induce such pupils to apply for admission.

"Second. Such pupils, when admitted, must be domiciled in the same building, must eat at the same table, and be taught in the same class-rooms and by the same teachers, and must receive the same attention, care, and consideration as white pupils."

On the reception of the above order the Superintendent and all other officers and teachers sent in their resignations. An effort was made to secure a Superintendent and teachers who would accept and be governed by the above instructions, but it failed. The school, on account of above order, was closed from September, 1873, to September, 1876. It is proper that it should be stated that the same political party which was in power and issued the above instructions directed the reopening early in the year 1876, on the basis of the original arrangement, viz.: the establishment of separate departments for white and colored pupils. Superintendent Walker and most of his corps of teachers were reappointed. The progress of the school has been uninterrupted since its reorganization in 1876.

The Department for colored pupils was opened in 1883.

South Carolina took her first step in the matter of educating her deaf children in 1832, or at least sent her first pupils to the Hartford (Connecticut) School during that year. From

1832 to 1849, the date of the opening of the Cedar Spring School, the State paid the whole or a part of the expenses of seventeen pupils at the Hartford Institution. Mrs. S. W. C. Rogers, *nee* Holmes, who now (February, 1893,) lives near Cedar Spring, and her brother, Joseph Holmes, were the first children sent by the State to Hartford.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FROM
1849 TO 1893.

From 1849 to 1869 the Board was composed of the Governor, *ex officio*, and two other members appointed by the Governor, as follows :

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Rev. Peter J. Shand, | 1849 to 1850. |
| Hon. C. G. Memminger, | 1849 to 1861. |
| Hon. T. N. Dawkins, | 1850 to 1855. |
| Hon. Samuel McAliley, | 1855 to 1862. |
| Hon. T. N. Dawkins, | 1861 to 1869. |
| Hon. H. D. Lesesne, | 1862 to 1869. |

From 1869 to 1878 the Board was composed of the Governor, Comptroller-General, and Superintendent of Education as *ex officio* members, as follows :

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Gov. R. K. Scott, | 1869 to 1872. |
| Comp. Gen. J. L. Neagle, | 1869 to 1872. |
| Sup't of Education J. K. Jillson, | 1869 to 1876. |
| Gov. F. J. Moses, | 1872 to 1874. |
| Comp. Gen. S. L. Hoge, | 1872 to 1874. |
| Gov. D. H. Chamberlain, | 1874 to 1876. |
| Comp. Gen. T. C. Dunn, | 1874 to 1876. |
| Gov. Wade Hampton, | 1876 to 1878. |
| Comp. Gen. Johnson Hagood, | 1876 to 1878. |
| Sup't of Education H. S. Thompson, | 1876 to 1878. |

From 1878 to date, 1893, the Board has been composed of the Superintendent of Education, *ex officio*, and four members appointed by the Governor, as follows :

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Hon. T. J. Moore, Chairman, | 1878 to 1893. |
| Hon. H. E. Heinitch, Sec. and Treas., | 1878 to 1893. |
| Hon. D. E. Converse, | 1878 to 1893. |
| Hon. J. F. Ficken, | 1878 to 1893. |
| Sup't of Education H. S. Thompson, | 1878 to 1882. |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Sup't of Education A. Coward, . . . | 1882 to 1886. |
| Sup't of Education J. H. Rice, . . . | 1886 to 1890. |
| Sup't of Education W. D. Mayfield, . . . | 1890 to 1893. |

LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS FROM 1849 TO 1893.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Newton P. Walker, | 1849 to 1861. |
| No Superintendent from | 1861 to 1865. |
| James S. Henderson, } Associate Principals, | 1866 to 1867. |
| Newton F. Walker, } | |
| John M. Hughston, | 1869 to 1872. |
| Newton F. Walker, | 1872 to 1873. |
| Newton F. Walker, | 1876 to 1893. |



PROF. N. F. WALKER.

TEACHERS OF THE DEAF FROM 1849 TO 1893.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| N. P. Walker, | 1849 to 1856. |
| R. C. Springs, | 1850 to 1856. |
| J. B. Edwards, | 1850 to 1852. |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| J. M. Hughston, | 1854 to 1887. |
| Miss M. J. Cunningham, | 1854 to 1855. |
| Miss L. C. Walker, | 1854 to 1856. |
| Miss S. J. Walker, | 1856 to 1864. |
| Miss M. A. Walker, | 1864 to 1865. |
| Miss J. I. Rogers, | 1869 to 1873. |
| N. F. Walker, | 1876 to 1879. |
| D. S. Rogers, | 1879 to 1888. |
| Miss Eva Ballard, | 1880 to 1884. |
| Miss Bessie Eddy, | 1884 to 1886. |
| Miss Eva Ballard, | 1886 to 1890. |
| Mrs. L. C. Irby, | 1887 to 1893. |
| Miss M. M. King, | 1887 to 1893. |
| T. H. Coleman, | 1888 to 1893. |
| Miss M. O. Sherrerd, | 1890 to 1893. |
| Mrs. G. Coleman, | 1892 to 1893. |

ART TEACHER.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs. G. Coleman, <i>nee</i> Decker, | 1889 to 1893. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|

DEPARTMENT FOR COLORED PUPILS.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| J. Garrett, | 1883 to 1887. |
| E. L. Boney, | 1887 to 1890. |
| J. T. Carter, | 1890 to 1893. |

TEACHERS OF THE BLIND FROM 1855 TO 1893.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| J. S. Henderson, | 1855 to 1870. |
| Miss M. A. Walker, | 1855 to 1856. |
| Mrs. L. C. W. Henderson, | 1856 to 1870. |
| N. F. Walker, | 1870 to 1872. |
| Mrs. M. A. North, | 1872 to 1873. |
| Mrs. L. C. W. Henderson, | 1876 to 1879. |
| Miss I. M. S. Walker, | 1879 to 1881. |
| L. H. Cromer, | 1881 to 1893. |
| Miss R. B. North, | 1881 to 1882. |
| Miss A. Stevens, | 1882 to 1889. |
| Miss M. P. Holland, | 1889 to 1890. |
| Mrs. S. A. Stover, | 1890 to 1891. |
| Mrs. P. L. Meares, | 1891 to 1892. |
| Miss B. P. Wright, | 1892 to 1893. |
| J. S. Henderson (music), | 1855 to 1867. |
| W. B. North (music), | 1869 to 1882. |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| H. W. Estes (music), | | 1882 to 1883. |
| G. W. Dixson (music), | | 1883 to 1885. |
| A. Krapf (music), | | 1885 to 1887. |
| J. A. Holland (music), | | 1887 to 1890. |
| W. L. Stover (music), | , | 1890 to 1891. |
| J. C. Meares (music), | | 1891 to 1893. |

MATRONS FROM 1849 TO 1893.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Mrs. M. L. Walker, | | 1849 to 1867. |
| Mrs. A. R. Neagle, | | 1869 to 1873. |
| Mrs. M. L. Walker, | | 1876 to 1878. |
| Mrs. V. E. Walker, | | 1878 to 1893. |

The following Reports of the School have been printed : 1854, '56, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '72, '77, 78, '79, 80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92. Copies of the following Reports, in manuscript, are on file : 1870, '71, '73, '76.

The *Palmetto Leaf* made its first appearance as an Institution paper in 1887 and has been published, somewhat irregularly, since that date.

The total number of pupils enrolled, from 1849 to 1856, during the time the school was the individual enterprise and property of Rev. N. P. Walker, was 65.

The total number of pupils enrolled from 1849 to 1893 is as follows :

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------|
| Deaf, | | 297. |
| Blind, | | 138. |

The number of pupils present February 1, 1893, is as follows :

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-----|
| Deaf, | | 89. |
| Blind, | | 41. |

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FEBRUARY 1, 1893.

Hon. T. J. Moore, Chairman ;
 Hon. H. E. Heinitsh, Secretary and Treasurer ;
 Hon. D. E. Converse,
 Hon. J. F. Ficken,
 Hon. W. D. Mayfield, State Sup't of Education, *ex officio*.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS, FEBRUARY 1, 1893.

Superintendent :

N. F. Walker.

Matron :

Mrs. V. E. Walker.

Physician :

Geo. W. Heinitsh, M. D.

Teachers of the Deaf :

T. H. Coleman, Mrs. L. C. Irby, Miss M. M. King,
Miss M. O. Sherrerd, Mrs. G. Coleman.

Teachers of the Blind:

L. H. Cromer, J. C. Meares, Miss B. P. Wright.

Teacher of Drawing and Painting:

Mrs. G. Coleman.

Foreman of Shoe Shop:

R. P. Rogers.

Foreman of Printing Office:

J. T. Carter.

Foreman of Shops for the Blind:

H. W. Estes.

DEPARTMENT FOR COLORED PUPILS.

Teacher of the Deaf:

J. T. Carter.

Teacher of the Blind:

H. W. Estes.

Matron :

Eliza Alexander.

A special teacher of Articulation was employed in 1880, and a second teacher was added to this Department in 1887. A teacher of Drawing and Painting was added to the Corps of Instructors in 1889. Fourteen pupils are receiving instruction in this Department at present.

All pupils have training in some handicraft or useful occupation. The following schedule of hours is observed :

Breakfast, 7. A. M.

Morning Prayers and opening school, 8 A. M.

School closes, 1 P. M.

Dinner, 1:15 P. M.

Shop-work, 2 to 5 P. M.

Supper, 6 P. M.

Study-Hour, 7 to 8 P. M.

Evening Prayers, 8 P. M.

Retire, 9 P. M.

The above schedule gives the pupils eight to nine hours' work in Literary and Industrial Departments each day. On Saturday the pupils are engaged in Industrial Department from 8 A. M. to 12 M. On Sunday morning one hour is spent in Sunday-school work by the teachers with their respective classes; in the afternoon one hour or more is spent in the Chapel in Bible lectures or the reading of sermons.

The Institution is located four miles south of the city of Spartanburg, in the Piedmont section of the State, in a county which borders on North Carolina. It is situated on and owns a tract of 157 acres of land. The building is 210 feet front, with an average depth of 65 feet; three stories high, heated by steam, and supplied with pure water from a large, bold spring. The water is forced into tanks in the attic of the main building by means of a hydraulic ram.

Cedar Spring was known prior to the Revolutionary war as Green Spring. It took its present name from the fact that formerly a large cedar tree stood very near the spring. The place is historical. A battle was fought here between the Whigs and Tories on the 13th of July, 1780.

